

the mother to withdraw from that agreement and say, no, I don't want that to happen, I think is the other side of the coin that has to be addressed. You can't just look at one side, the father. You have to look at both sides. Both sides have a commitment to the best interest of the child. Both sides have a commitment as to do what they wish to do as far as their rights as parents, and you can't just have a bill that says we are going to talk about fathers today, and then we will talk about mothers again another day. Senator Wesely talked about the fact that these were topics that were talked about and compromises were made in this particular bill. And I am always intrigued by that because I am glad compromises were made by some people. I wasn't a part of the compromise, the Legislature is not a part of the compromise, and we don't have to live by that compromise. When we see an issue before us that's pertinent to the bill and we think it is vitally important to the bill, the legislative responsibility is to put an amendment forward and talk and try to make the bill as a complete bill. I support the Chambers' amendment. I think the Chambers' amendment 90-days was too long. I offer the amendment to make it two weeks, and I would hope that even those that may not support the amendment would, at least, say that if the amendment is going to be agreed upon, we should have a smaller time frame and keep the debate to the time frame, and then later on make a decision as to the policy of the Chambers' amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. On the Bernard-Stevens' amendment, Senator Witek, did you wish to speak to this amendment?

SENATOR WITEK: Madam Chairman, members of the body, I would simply because it deals with the same issue as Senator Chambers', it only shortens the time period, and the issue here is whether we should extend the time period at all. And I resent Senator Chambers when he talks about the women feeling that they need more time, and I know he has talked to individual women who have said that they would have liked more time for this decision. But I guess I have known several women who have been on both sides of this issue, both as women who have put up their children for adoption, and women close to me who have adopted children, so it isn't an issue that I don't know anything about at all. And as one of the people who stood up when 712 first came up and wanted to protect some of the birth mothers from this process and make sure that their interests were covered in this process, and all of these concerns